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FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3647
INFO RUCNMR/MERCOSUR COLLECTIVE
RHMFISS/HQ USSOUTHCOM MIAMI FL
RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHINGTON DC
RHEFDIA/DIA WASHINGTON DC

C O N F I D E N T I A L BUENOS AIRES 000513

SIPDIS

E.O. 12958: DECL: 04/30/2029
TAGS: [PREL](#) [MASS](#) [PGOV](#) [ASEC](#) [AMGT](#) [PHUM](#) [KPAO](#) [AR](#)
SUBJECT: ARGENTINE MOD GARRE OFFERS TEMPORARY SOLUTION FOR
MILITARY GROUP OFFICE SPACE

REF: BUENOS AIRES 0498 AND PREVIOUS

Classified By: CDA Tom Kelly for reasons 1.4 (b) & (d).

¶1. (C) Following up on Argentine FM Taiana's suggestion (reftel), the Ambassador called MOD Garre, who indicated she had just signed a response to the Ambassador's March 31 letter regarding the MOD eviction of the Military Group from MOD headquarters and two other facilities.

¶2. (C) Garre said she remained committed to collaboration with the USG and still wanted to update the 1964 military assistance agreement, which she considered a product of its Cold War context. She said she understood this was tentatively on the agenda for the next Bilateral Working Group (BWG) meeting, which had been postponed. As a question of sovereignty, Garre said she did not want foreign military working in GOA military installations, but she wanted to make available office space in MOD civilian facilities as a temporary solution for the Military Group during the period of negotiations. She mentioned specifically that she had identified office space in the Military Geographic Institute, which is located not far from the Embassy, and asked that the Embassy Military Group follow up with MOD Secretary for International Relations Forti.

¶3. (C) Embassy subsequently received April 30 from MOD a hand-delivered copy of MOD Garre's reply to the Ambassador's March 31 letter, which tracked with her telephonic conversation with the Ambassador as described above. In the letter, Garre reiterated the need to update the 1964 agreement, which should be done within the BWG "where we will assuredly reach mutually acceptable solutions." The letter claims the BWG had been scheduled to meet in April but was postponed to the second half of the year at the request of the USG, pending the new Administration's appointment of appropriate authorities. The letter further claims that, due to MOD's critical space shortage, the MOD cannot wait until then, which is why the MOD moved forward with its March 20 request for the Military Group to vacate the GOA offices.

KELLY